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FINAL WARNING

TO THE
PUBLIC

To avoid the

Detected Poison ;

Being an Exposure of the many dangerous
Falsities, base Assertions and gross Impositions
industriously propagated from a venal Pen, in
an infamous Pamphlet, called, *An Essay on*
Bread, wherein the Millers and Bakers are
said to be vindicated, &c.

By P. MARKHAM, M. D.
Author of SYHOROC.

Whoever pretends to vindicate notorious guilt ought not to
escape civil chastisement. He manifests bribery, attempts
to prostitute the truth, to abuse justice, defeat the laws,
and to promote iniquity : he endeavours to blind-fold the
vigilance of mankind to their own safety ; to lay a stumb-
ling-block in their path, and to solicit them into de-
struction.

GROTIUS.

The SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed for M. COOPER at the *Globe* in *Pater-noster-Row*.
MDCCLVIII.

FINAL WARNING

TO THE

PUBLIC

To read the

Detected Poisons

The many dangerous
poisons, and all the
various kinds of
poison, in
the world, called
the "Poison"
and the "Poison"
and the "Poison"

V. P. M. A. M. M. D.
Author of "The Poisons"





To Mr. H. J——n, Chemist, Dealer in
Purl, Maker of Magnesia Alba,
Seller of Alum and Salt of Tarter,
a Perusal of the following TALE, by
Way of Preface, is most heartily re-
commended by

P. M.

*Out with it Dunciad ! let the Secret pass,
That Secret to each Knave that he's an Ass.*

POPE.

IT is a Custom with the People upon the
Coast of Cornwall when the Weather is very
tempestuous, to hang a Lanthorn at the Tail of
a lame Ass, and to turn out the Creature by
Night upon some high Land near the Sea.
The Brute, at Pasture, gives a Motion to the
Light connected to his Posteriors, which ex-
actly resembles the Appearance of a Vessel at
Anchor, and deludes the unwary Mariners upon
their Perdition, and into the Snares laid for
them by impious Lucre.

Mutato nomine de te fabula narratur.

1852

To Mr. H. H. ...
of the ...
of the ...
of the ...
of the ...
of the ...

...

...



FINAL WARNING

TO THE

PEOPLE, &c.

THE first nineteen pages of Mr. J——'s production, called *An Essay on Bread*, are so very replete with contradictions it is impossible to understand his meaning, if we must be so cruel to him as to suppose he had any; which indeed had not been believed, but for that general discharge of scurrility and malevolence which shews his design to be abuse, to which contempt is the most proper reply that can be made with decency; and as it bespeaks some notice, may be more honour than its author could reasonably expect.

As specimens of this author's humanity, politeness, coherence, sense, and language I will beg leave to give a few extracts.

Mr. J——n says, "Alum is confessedly used by the bakers, p. 4." he refrained from bread ten years on this account; nay its virulence is not denied, See his account of his friend the bird-fancier's broods, POISON DETECTED discovered it to the public, and the using of vitriol in beer, which Mr. J——n also acknowledges, nay, thinks very pernicious. But

p. 5. he says, " These malevolent suggestions have
 " occasioned more mischief than could possibly arise
 " from the contaminated bread ; because they excite
 " doubts and mistrusts and inflame the minds of the
 " people ;" or in other words, doubts are more hurt-
 ful than poison. Why then was himself so cruel as to
 excite doubts from abuses in beer, wine, cyder,
 pickles, confectionary, &c. ? was it because bread is
 the food of all mankind that we should submit to be
 abused in this important part of our victuals ; or is it
 the evil quality of some of the adulterations em-
 ployed in it, and the value of his nostrums which
 he would not desire should become useless by their
 abolition ; or is it to become himself an object of
 his own applause, -that he has thus inconsistently en-
 deavoured to excite such doubts and mistrusts, or to
 calm such perturbations ? p. 6. for he says, at the
 conclusion of his production, " That instances of un-
 " regarded abuses seemingly trivial are innumerable ;
 " therefore whoever observes the hint, pursues the bu-
 " siness and elucidates the subjects must infallibly ob-
 " tain the grateful applause of all who are compassio-
 " nately inclined to prevent or relieve the unhappy
 " afflictions of their fellow-creatures." The author of
 POISON DETECTED has done this by Mr. J——n's
 confession in the articles of alum in bread, and with-
 out his confession, in the adulteration of beer, wine,
 tea, &c. As Mr. J——n abuses him therefore only
 for what he has done is not he both void of gratitude
 and humanity ? *Ex ore tuo te judicabo.* p. 2, 10, 11,
 14, &c. " Alum is confessedly used by the bakers,
 p. 2." this deterred him from eating bread, vide p.—
 " Yet bread as it is now generally made is an
 antidote to the poison attributed to it." p. 6. his
 experiments are " designed to discover and prevent
 " the use of alum, which they will do better than the
 execution



execution of penal laws. "It is greatly to be wished
"some salutary statute might prevent the use of alum."

p. 14. I am in doubt if I understand his meaning, but it seems a very strange one, if he has any, of which however I would not charge him lest I do him wrong, in a matter of which he seems very desirous to appear quite innocent. He says then; "It is a pity some law does not prohibit the making of such bread as is the very antidote of poison, or is the most wholesome (this he must say with a regard to his nostrums) and of which there is no manner of need, because his experiments do it effectually." This is given as a sample of his sense and consistency, of which himself does not speak so plainly as of his own gratitude, extent of public spirit and humanity. Perhaps he thought it quite needless, since he has been so liberal of specimens, that they could not escape the most ordinary reader.

Can Mr. J——n be of two opinions quite repugnant to each other at the same time? Why so severe upon himself, as his motto bespeaks:

Who dares think one thing and another tell,
My *heart* detests him as the gates of hell?

yet 'tis pity the poor man should not only be void of humanity towards the rest of mankind, but also detest himself too, a notice which he might have been satisfied with from the public, who are much inclined to recompence according to merit; and have great reason in this case to give the man his due.—

It is very strange he should asperse the author of POISON DETECTED for inflaming the minds of the people, since himself allows that he has avoided it as much as possible, by writing in a stile which his own friend, the baker, at his club was not able to understand;

Not that his quill to critics was confined,
His page gives ampler lessons to mankind. *Pope.*

A precaution the author very purposely took, to avoid the imputation he has given, p. 5. 'Tis to be wished Mr. J——n had followed the same method, instead of his "simple narration," with respect to the picklers, vintners, brewers, &c. some truths are not to be explained.— But he may be of opinion that few will read his production, in which I join with him. He should also have remembered that few eat pickles and vinegar in comparison of those who eat bread; another proof of Mr. J——n's great humanity.

Thus perplexing himself he flutters about like an owl in the sun-shine, or a buzzard in a storm; and when the creature affects to crack his joke, he generally succeeds so unfortunately, that he must rather be regarded as an object of pity, than that he may sometimes indeed provoke, ridicule and contempt; like an ass inclined to caper, but very subject to stumble, he is perpetually blundering; and his own confusion is to himself what he designed to be to the public, a stumbling-block.

Thus far we have proceeded to shew, that this surprising author is so ingenious to confess his own total defect of respect to mankind. To shew farther his inconsistency, which with his ill-nature himself exposes in every page, were needless. But perhaps he may charm with the beauties and elegance of language, to which we must next beg leave to speak, for he seems to profess a mighty talent at criticism.

He says, "He expected a set of useful experiments whereby the public might avoid the abuses of bakers, but was amused with medical disquisitions, and instead of the abuses of bakers was entertained with a physical abuse of bakers." What simplicity of stile! For

For purity of expression and wit one sample may be quite sufficient: "To discover with certainty
 "when bean-meal enters the composition of bread,
 "let him remember, that those who eat such bread
 "are apt to f—t soon after, and the more such ad-
 "mixture the more violent the explosion." This sweet
 joke seems a true native of East Smithfield or Bil-
 lingsgate, or gleaned from the bakers club. "Thus
 "filthy expressions excite filthy ideas which purer
 "reason happens not to have calcined, p. 29."

We must do him the justice to confess his happy
 talent at a pun. "I have made some enquiry (sup-
 "posed at the bakers club) after the institution of
 "bread-doctor; the result is, the bakers never con-
 "ferred this degree upon any persons whatever, except
 "the two recited authors upon the subject, the last
 "of which the better to prevent confusion was dubb'd
 "with the additional particle *Un*, p. 29." Of his
 perspicuity and simplicity, excuse one specimen
 drawn from an article where he certainly ought to
 have been most careful to shew it, p. 13. "The
 "alum improved the colour and texture, yet the
 "crumb of the bread was very harsh, and the list
 "was not of that peculiar fine "brown colour,
 "(yet the alum improved it) and the angles of the
 "upper and lower crusts appeared close as if they
 "were glazed together, which are convincing proofs
 "of a superabundant quantity of alum in bread:"
 Can any man living tell when there is alum in bread
 from this steering plan.

Thus much for his stile, which it is presumed, with
 deference to the opinion of so great a critic, would
 have been much improved had he engaged some of
 his millers or bakers to correct the grammar, whilst
 himself was at the club or fish-market in his neigh-
 bourhood scraping together cleanly jests wherewith
 to decorate his essay;

Plebean

Plebean rhetoric, scurrility supply'd,
The place of reason, and of justice, noise. *Anon.*

And indeed this insinuates ample proof of the badness of the cause, or the insufficiency of the defender, who would otherwise have advanced arguments to vindicate his friends, instead of that profusion of calumny with which he asperses those who would, as he says, very truly, "doubtless extirpate their villainy, p. 5."

But as a false light though suspended at the tale of so despicable an animal as an ass, may do much mischief, (vid. pref.) and delude unwary mariners upon their undoing, to avail the lucre of impious men, even though they should have (in Mr. J—n's phrase) a steering plan to avoid them, p. 17. it is proper therefore to disprove his assertions, especially as there are people ready to adopt the most palpable and stupid errors, which can proceed from the prostituted pens of venal men, when those deceptions are industriously propagated and abetted by others who have hired the scribler to deceive; and whose interest will be secured in proportion as his mischief becomes popular, and the attention of the public to their own safety is lulled by the opiate.

Mr. J——n says, his design was to prove the impossibility of mixing calcarious earths, &c. in bread without immediate discovery; he affirms that these ingredients would be perceived by the grittiness. I fancy he means when there is no alum in it; for, p. 10. we read, "That the acid of alum uniting
"with a portion of the chalky earths, dissolves them."
If they are bolted with the flour first and then dissolved must we expect a grittiness still to remain? or that the parts of those substances will appear manifest upon the surface of the loaf after baking, as he says they will? this last is too often the case

case indeed with the London bread, as every one must frequently have observed. And Mr. J——n's good nature will pardon me if I should not allow the grit to come from the mill-stones; because it is usual with millers to clean them after dressing, by first grinding a portion of hog-corn. Is it impossible to reduce calcarious earths to an impalpable powder at a small charge? do not they absorb greater quantities of water than the best wheat-flour? is not their cost small? and the temptation to use them great? these you may buy at 2s. and flour is worth 8s. or 10s. *per* bushel. Nay, that ingenious man and great philosopher, who has enriched the world with many accurate and curious experiments on vegetation, found no manner of impossibility or difficulty to mix one ounce of powdered chalk with two pounds of flour (it was bought at the bakers, and therefore it might have been mixed before) which made into a loaf and baked proved exactly the same as the common bread of London, and to his great surprize *,
the

* That it is impossible to add such mixtures, is a very exalted assertion of Mr. J——n. See Dr. Stonehouse *. *. See innumerable accounts in news-papers. Are these gentlemen liars and malicious? are all the people of the country to be charged with joining against the bakers, and meal-jobbers? or must we believe the assertions of an hireling calumniator, and accuse the learned, the populace and all the nation only to exculpate the criminals? *Vox populi, vox Dei.*

* * A discovery of the notorious adulterations in bread and flour, being of the utmost consequence to the public, and now likely to become matter of parliamentary enquiry, it is unquestionably the duty of every particular person, whose situation, talents, and resolution may enable him, to do his utmost towards detecting and exposing such iniquitous and dangerous practices.

the bread did not turn out so gritty that the dogs would spurn it, nor could the eye distinguish or the palate

In regard to the bakers, I forbear any remarks upon their late advertisement farther than this, that a plain denial of any adulteration in their bread, back'd with proper affidavits of such facts as they were able to assert upon oath before the mayor, might have been more satisfactory than any angry expressions. Their business was to satisfy the public, who have a right to all possible satisfaction in an affair which so nearly concerns their health. The charge relating to the using of alum dissolved in Urine was not made upon any person in the town of Northampton, nor ever intended as such. What relates to the information, which was given to me, is particularly set forth in the following affidavit: the bakers, he adds, have not denied the fact they so evidently intended to deny.

I HENRY WYCKLEY, nephew and late apprentice to Mr. LOCOCK, do make oath, that I heard the baker's servant (as mentioned in the Mercury of Feb. 13) declare before me, my uncle, aunt, and two other persons, that he, by order of his master, had several times dissolved alum in urine, and mixed it with the bread; of which fact the said servant then offered to have taken his oath, if required.

HENRY WYCKLEY, of Northampton, Apothecary.

Feb. 24, 1758, Sworn before me,

ROBERT LUCAS, Mayor.

The mixing of alum dissolved in urine with bread is still farther confirmed by a letter I received last week from a very worthy member of parliament, who acquaints me, that one of their house knew this abominable practice to be a fact, and hoped he should be able to bring evidence sufficient to prove that fact before the committee for the bread-bill, now sitting.

That there is room to suspect very bad practices of this kind in some places is very evident: a baker, living in this town, within these few days acknowledged to one of my own

palate discover the mixture; on the contrary, take an honest country loaf, it will not like the town-bread grow dry and hard in two days; nay it will be moist, fragrant, sapid and mellow at the end of a week: this is an ocular argument *ad hominem*, that the town-bread is improperly made.

But Mr. J——n asserts “ that the bakers profits
“ could not be increased by such ridiculous substi-
“ tutes, such dry absorbent earths, introduced to
“ supply the diminution of flour do not retain the
“ moisture of the water used in making the dough;
“ for when influenced by the heat of the oven the
“ bread attracts their aqueous parts which they con-
“ tracted in the mixture; and thus they remain inter-
“ mixed, tho’ unchanged in the bread (he forgets he
“ says, acids dissolve alkalies, p. 10.) like so many
“ particles of sand.” If the bread attracts the watry
parts is not its weight increased thereby*? does not

C

clay

own servants, that a person had been with him, and offered to learn him several methods of adulterating bread; but that he refused to employ such a kind of journeyman.

The following experiments made by Mr. Marshal, of Louth; on some Lincolnshire flour, will plainly demonstrate its notorious adulteration, and the necessity, as I am told, of using alum or urine, or salt of tartar, &c. to make such sophisticated flour into bread. ’Twill prove likewise, that some of the mealmen now very nearly double the produce of the field; consequently, by this new art of adulteration, the increase of corn will every year be less necessary, as, by the destruction of our fellow-creatures, the demand for corn must proportionably decrease.

A tea-dish of genuine flour weigh’d 532 Grains.

Another tea-dish of adulterated flour weigh’d 791 Grains.

The bad therefore outweigh’d the good 259 Grains.

Now half 532 is 266; and 259 is half the weight of the good flour; except 7 grains.

* Experiment assures me that one ounce and half of absorbents retains four ounces of water after baking.



clay in the refining of sugar absorb more than even that substance ; and can this man assert that flour absorbs more than calcarious earths. Nonsense ! which needs no reply ? his friends the bakers could have shewn him by experiment, that neat flour is kneaded with two gallons and a half of water *per* bushel, whereas sophisticated flour requires three gallons and a half ; a difference of sixteen pounds *per* bushel.

“ It is evident, (says Boerhaave) from repeated experiments, that all fixed alkalies are endued with the power of attracting water, air, pure alcohol, oil, and acids.” Chalk, lime, and burnt bones do then not only attract much moisture, but they absorb the oiliness of the flour also, which is likewise the property of alum : and thence it is that the town-bread generally dries in two days. From these ingredients it seems to derive its astringent and indigestible qualities. Are we in this to believe Mr. J——n, chemist ; or Dr. Boerhaave the physician ?

Page 5. he says, “ Yet I never suspected that “ lime, chalk, whiting, and burnt bones were any of “ the constituent parts of bread.” I believe so, nor did many other people. POISON DETECTED discovered it, and the rioters found these ingredients in the several mills they attacked, vide p. 39. However, like alum in bread, they had no business there.

Bread made from neat flower, salt, water, and yeast, is known in every family which has its wheat ground without sophistications, to continue moist and good for several days ; nay more than a week, tho' the bakers bread of London is stale in two days. Pray why this difference ? is not this a daily experiment, which proves the London bread to have amongst its constituent parts subjects of a very dry nature ; such as alum, calcarious earths, or salt of tartar exhibited in a shape which gives them power to exert their worst effects.

Page 7. "I am not insensible of the grittiness of flour, occasioned by the negligence of the millers."

Mr. J——n in his title acquaints us he writes to vindicate the millers, and this is the only place I can find that he mentions them; and he here substitutes negligence for fraud, as all the country where mills by the mob have been forced open can justify, and of which he might convince himself, would he read the daily papers, particularly the Chronicle.

Page 8. "Admit the possibility of these mixtures, to what purpose could they tend?" Undoubtedly to increase the weight of flour, as millers sell their flour by weight; and to absorb, as they are of a nature so to do, more water when made into dough. Water will weigh better than a pound to a pint; the heat of the oven, did our author know the process of bread-making, doth not evaporate all the water used in the dough. Bread appears honey-comb'd, 'tis true, and so do all acids and alkalies after effervescing; and thus may cheap impalpable powders create a profit both to the miller and baker, as the powder of burnt bones, which absorbs much more water than flour, costs but three shillings *per* bushel; whereas mealmen sell now second flour for eight shillings. Vid. *supra*, p. 9.

Page 10. "Alum mixed in a certain proportion with such materials and baked in bread, greatly prevents that close union of parts." This really is the first time I ever heard a chemist assert, alum prevented cohesion; and p. 11. "That the salt of urine taken as food is not such an odious disgusting ingredient. * " Surely a man must have a vehement

C 2

* Especially from a sound party, which 'tis great pity Mr. J——n does not teach us to discover by some *elegant* experiment, for as he deals so largely in nostrums, certainly he is no less expert at the casting of waters than at chemistry.

ment inclination to vindicate bakers to jump over such blocks as these!

Page 12. "The produce of wheat in the year 1756 was not only scanty but indifferent, it would neither grind nor bake well; the misfortune was occasioned by continued rain at the approach of harvest, which levelled it to the ground and disposed it to sprout before it could be housed; and by this means it was greatly divested of its quintessence" By quintessence I suppose our chemist means the fifth or choicest spirit; if so, this fifth spirit is, I can assure him, not fermentable; therefore its want could not prevent the dough from raising kindly, though it may be from thence less nutritious*.

But

Dr. Stonehouse has given us great reason to believe that human ordure (no disgusting ingredient, I suppose in Mr. J—n's opinion,) is also used in yeast. Possibly Mr. J—n may employ it in his patent bitters, as the distillers do in gin.

At the siege of Samaria men drank urine and eat dung: but, making the resemblance more similar; the head of an ass was sold for one hundred pieces of silver. Vid. KINGS. In this city, so deplorable our famine of wit, that a venal head tho' without the ears of the same sort of animal, if report be true, was notoriously purchased for one hundred pieces of gold.

* Why is alum used? is it to give tenacity? does good flour want any additional tenacity? is not alum generally used? is all flower miserably stale or damaged? why then is alum generally used? is not damaged flour more acid than the sound? is not the more acid the more moist? would not then absorbents seem to help it? No, they will make it more incoherent, and alum without them will make the bread too acid; where then is the difficulty or improbability of mixing alkalies and alum to improve damaged flour? or why is alum added to the good if it be not rendered too incoherent, and much resembling damaged flower by the alkaline absorbent adulterations? in one place he says, alum improves the colour and texture; in another he says, alum destroys the colour.

But on the contrary, p. 13. " The harvest was
 " so genial the following year, that I am well in-
 " formed (from the club) a baker can make a quar-
 " tern loaf of the same weight with half a pound or
 " less of last year's flour than with that of the pre-
 " ceding year: That is, the year 1757, was a dry
 year; consequently its flour would absorb more water
 than the flour of the year 1756, which was a wet
 or moist year. A remarkable discovery to prove
 bread not to be adulterated!

Page 15. " The improbability (impossibility I
 " suppose) of adulterating bread with absorbent
 " earths has been sufficiently evinced." It has not
 indeed! on the contrary, the certainty of the millers
 villainy is affirmed by hundreds of witnesses. 'Tis
 needless to call out for fresh experiments when al-
 most every loaf we eat is one. Has not every country
 in Great Britain echoed with the frauds of mealmen
 and millers? have not some of them been punished
 for the admixture of inferior corns; and is it a time
 to make fresh trials when they swear they will adul-
 terate no more?

Page 24. He says, " Alum is divested of its acid
 " in fermentation." A little before he observed,
 " that children do not derive their acid complaints
 " from alum, but the acidity of damaged or stale
 " flower:—does not the bread then undergo also a
 " fermentation to divest it of its acid?" If subjects,
 are according to his new philosophy, divested of their
 acids by fermentation.

Page 6. " To confirm observations by experiments,
 " whereby every individual may distinguish their
 " good bread from bad, must more effectually re-
 " dress the grievance than the execution of all the
 " penal laws in force." P. 14. he says, " It is
 " greatly to be wished some salutary statute might
 oblige

“oblige the bakers entirely to abolish the use of
 “alum, which bakers in general acknowledge.”
 And yet, p. 4. “The acidity which destroyed the
 “tender harmonious broods of his friend the bird-
 “fancier did not proceed from alum;” tho’ himself
 dared not to eat any bread for ten years, for fear of
 the qualities of that mineral acid. Nay, though him-
 self does not eat such bread other people it seems may
 with all his heart eat it and welcome. Nay, he will
 persuade them all that lies in his power to eat no-
 thing else: for he says many fine things of such sort
 of bread; but it must be remembered he sells several
infallible medicines for such diseases as bad bread oc-
 casions. P. 6. he says, “Bread thus made is the very
 “antidote of the poison it is supposed to possess.” For
 by mixing four oz. of alum with one hundred pounds
 of flour, salt of tarter and pearl-ash, q. s. and pro-
 perly baked, he has found out a method of making
 a fine magnesia alba, “which is extremely whol-
 “some; indeed it is very uncertain in its operation;
 “for some people it will work violently and others
 “not at all.” However, if it is useful (for bakers)
 and not at all amiss the people should be purged
 sometimes. Had Mr. J——n received (I hope a
 cure is not despaired of) the benefit of this ope-
 ration, had his head shaved, a strong blister applied
 to the offending part, and undergone a pretty plen-
 tiful phlebotomy, such stuff had never spoiled any
 paper. Its incongruity needs no remark.

Page 7. “He is pretty sure the minutest portion
 “of lime, chalk, &c. could not escape his re-
 “searches;” but p. 18. he mistook pieces of flour
 for lime or chalk, till experiment convinced him
 of the contrary, and supposes other people might
 not know the difference between lime and flour with-
 out experiment also.

We

We must therefore needs have an experiment or two; but what occasion of that method to discover impurities which he pretty roundly asserts never to have been mixed with bread? the only method by which he does or possibly can prove it; so we must have his experiment*.

Which happens to be similar to one made by that most ingenious and worthy divine, we just hinted at. But our chemist says, "The bread appeared was of a grey colour† rather than white; "the particles of whiting were visible upon the crust; "the cells (himself allows alum makes it porose "p. 12.) in the crumb were small, and the whole betrayed an unusual appearance, p. 19." But the good Doctor, whom it happens nobody will doubt of fallacy or deceit, who has too much sense to be himself imposed upon, and too much honesty to impose upon others, making the same mixture, with the only

* 'Tis pity Mr. Chemist did not tell us what flour he employed in his experimenting, if his friends the bakers supplied him, possibly he might from their address receive such as was already, artfully as much charged with adulterations as it would bear, without manifesting them apparently, if so, no wonder the chalk appeared so plain in his bread, or that the solution of that made with alum changed the colour of syrup of violets; this is the more probable, as the poor man does not seem at all superior, to such a deception from his friends the bakers, for he confesses that before he had made a chymical trial of it, he mistook the granules of flour for lime, and thence therefore, that the author of POISON DETECTED might mistake those of lime for flour, p. 18.

† He afterwards says, p. 21. "Such bread changes "colour by working it to a dough, nearly to that of the "subject with which it is adulterated, (that is, I suppose to "the colour of chalk) whilst pure bread retains its natural "whiteness."

only difference of chalk instead of whiting, produced a loaf exactly resembling the bread commonly sold in London. And what is most strange, found no impossibility in mixing the ingredients, though it was not so easy to separate them again. Every one will credit this who has the honour to know Dr. H—s, and I imagine few will shew the same respect to the other who knows Mr. J——n.

Besides, he forgot to make his experiment complete; he added not the material part, alum, which would, as he says, have dissolved the particles of the absorbents, and a previous effervescence would have infallibly prevented their discovery by such an *elegant* and *surprising* experiment, p. 49. This experiment first is apparently defective, inconclusive and fallacious, and does not in the least therefore tend to prove the impossibility of mixing alkalies, only shews that he had not the art of doing it; and appears not at all impossible, as his title promises to prove; except he meant in the lawyers terms instead of the chemists.—*Quid turpe impossibile est*. He says, the chalky particles would appear upon the crust of the loaf, which will not be the case when it is finely bolted; and sometimes such particles are apparent enough, as every body can testify.

Had alum been added, as he says, p. 10. “The
“paste would have been puffed up and rendered
“more spongy and light by the acid uniting with
“the chalky mixtures: thus it prevents their close
“union of parts.” As the cells of his bread, p. 19.
would not have been small, nor the colour grey; for
he says, “Alum improves the colour and texture.”
p. 13. Therefore the experiment is defective in
the most essential point.

We shall next make an essay on the second experiment he gives, which will appear as base and fraudulent as the first, and merely designed to amuse and deceive the people, that they may not suspect poison or alum where it really is concealed in their bread; or so fallacious and decrepid a one would never have been published as infallible. “Take
 “bread where alum is suspected to be baked with it,
 “put it into a glass and pour boiling water upon it
 “in a sufficient quantity to make it like panada;
 “add to it a third part of good purple-coloured syrup
 “of violets: let them stand half an hour stirring
 “them frequently, and if there be alum in the
 “bread the syrup will be changed to a sap green; if
 “not the colour will be a little altered, but not green.”
 In this experiment, as related in his own *pure* language, Mr. J——n chemist happens again to have succeeded the eminent divine hinted at above on a like occasion. And as he seems fated to be ever repugnant to truth and common sense as well as common civility, so here he asserts what is quite reverse to the result of the Doctor’s experiment; for tho’ *himself* had mixed the alum and added the syrup of violets and the juice of buckthorn: it absolutely did not convert those mixtures to a green colour; and indeed it is hardly to be supposed that if alum baked in bread in pretty large proportions will not coagulate warm milk: Vid. p. 22, 23. that it should change the colour of syrup of violets or buckthorn juice.

But what is most extraordinary is his conclusion of this experiment, “bread made of stale flour, or
 “which has contracted an acidity in leaven curdles
 “warm milk readily. Hence the source of children’s
 “complaints falsely ascribed to bread mixed with
 “alum.” That is to say, contrary to experience,



contrary to common sense, and as it happens to his own confession and obvious demonstration, that a vegetable acid is stronger than a mineral acid, by which it is expelled. Vid. Boerhaave. So that Mr. J——n (which is a slip he is very subject to make) seems here again to give us a proof of nothing but his own unhappy fatality to blunders and malicious propensity to draw the public into one of the most fatal kind.

But was alum discoverable by syrup of violets, &c. it would be tedious to make the trial before we dare eat our daily bread; and even then it is so difficult to procure honest syrup of violets; that the experiment would be extremely vague, uncertain and delusive; which seems to be Mr. J——n's purpose it should: or else he would have told us, that though it happens to turn green, as he pretends, yet alum previously effervescing in fermentation with chalk, lime, bone-ash, salt of tarter, wood-ash, or other alkalies will not, though you dissolve the bread so composed turn the syrup of violets green; and if the alum is mostly added when such alkaline substances are the most prevalent in the flour, or when it is most difficult to knead it into bread; of course it effervescing in the mixture with those absorbents, defeats the discovery of the alum by such a lame experiment as the second of Mr. J——n's unliked production.

To mix such alkalies in bread does not therefore appear in the least *impossible* though their discovery when immixed is almost so; as was experienced by a much more accurate experimenter than Mr. J——n, a gentleman whose writings will for ever be an honour to his country, a treasure to the learned and a blessing to mankind; a name I dare not mention on the pages stigmatized with that of H. J——n.

But the third experiment affords our operator the most spacious field for triumph; it really conveys to us a great and mighty discovery, *viz.* a method of making

making magnesia alba from alum. But he says,
 “ The present juncture will not permit him to de-
 “ termine the immediate cause of the decomposition
 “ of alum in this action; and indeed it is sufficient to
 “ demonstrate with certainty, that alum thus treated
 “ loses those pernicious properties which are justly
 “ ascribed to it when taken internally with our ali-
 “ ment in its crude state, p. 23, 24.

Nay, he has been informed that “ some bakers
 “ elixate their wood-ashes and with the clear lixi-
 “ vium attemperate the prevalent acidity of dough,
 “ especially when mixed with alum. *If these de-*
 “ *fects be remedied* by such a lixivium we need no
 “ longer remain in suspense, by what means alum is
 “ decomposed; but this practice it is said is but
 “ known to a few. *If alum be divested of its aci-*
 “ *dity by these means*, it leaves its alkaline base in
 “ the bread, which is a fine magistry or magnesia
 “ alba, a celebrated medicine for young children
 “ and strenuously recommended by Dr. Cadogan,
 “ &c. &c. &c.

“ Nay, the infusion of aluminous bread produced
 “ no precipitation from a clear solution of pure salt
 “ of tarter dropped into it. Warm milk was added to
 “ this infusion and no coagulum was produced, tho’
 “ the addition of a grain of crude alum disposed it
 “ to curdle.” This experiment begins with non-
 sense, proceeds with fallacy and ends with ill-nature,
 of which he is extremely liberal.

Is it probable that alum whose nature is disposed
 to absorb water, air, and oily particles when mixed
 in bread, and consequently enveloped in an olea-
 ginous viscosity, should exert its styptic and acid
 power till divested of that covering? can this be
 done by an aqueous menstruum? can it therefore coa-
 gulate milk, or, though he asserts it, will it turn syrup
 of

of violets green, its acidity being defended? the acid of alum is not therefore transmuted but enveloped and more closely concealed; for it cannot possibly be divested of its acidity by the previous fermentation in bread, or the fire that baked it: for a little examination of the most celebrated chemical authors would have informed Mr. Chemist, that fermentation doth not divest any subject of its acidity, but increases its acid; and that fire will not elevate a mineral as it will a vegetable acid; what the author means by fermentation or fire seems like many other of his expressions, a profound mystery to every-body but himself; he uses them as synonymous terms, though their great dissynonymity is undisputed; fermentation is composition, fire is dissociation. Read Dr. Friend.

The acid therefore of alum is not evaporated*; this I hope our Chemist will allow. Boerhaave says, "The fossil acid alum being purified from all its water becomes highly corrosive, strong and ponderous, and so attractive of water as to imbibe it from the air, and thus increase its own weight." The heat of an oven will expel its watry parts into the bread; but the acid will not rise with less than five hundred degrees of heat. "This acid presently kills all known animals: if its fumes but enter the lungs of man they soon raise a violent coughing that cannot be stopped, and bring on a difficulty of breathing, suffocation, and sudden death; or else an incurable asthma for life." This acid entangled in the oily particles of the

* In an heat which does not exceed one hundred and eighty in a solid body as bread, and himself says, p. 41. the mineral acid dissolved in beer, a liquid, when boiling which is at least equal in that liquid to boiling water, or two hundred and twelve degrees, is not evaporated.

the dough in the oven, becomes more viscid and poisonous, and like to oil of vitriol.

“Vegetable acids may indeed by the powers of the body be so changed as to lose their acid nature and become another kind of salt. But the fossil acids which are capable of dissolving gold, silver, and mercury, are so strong as generally to destroy, or prove almost poison to all animals, except in some few cases where putrefaction or an alkaline disposition highly prevails.”

That alum attracts oils and surrounds itself therewith is asserted by the same author; and that water will not divest it of this envelopment is well known. But this tho' not effected by warm milk or water, tried upon it, will certainly be effectuated by the blood circulating in an animal after such particles are absorbed by the lacteals; and when it has once insinuated itself into the blood its fatal consequences are such as mentioned in SYHOROC, on alum. Though a solution of bread made with the common allowance of alum will not curdle warm milk, it certainly will curdle the animal blood, as may easily be experienced by injecting only this solution after a little evaporation into the vein of an animal, to which it speedily proves either mortal or extremely pernicious.

In POISON DETECTED mention is made of an experiment of the effects of alumed bread on several animals, to which it generally proved mortal, or very prejudicial. What need of farther experiments to prove that substance poisonous, which the wise of most ages have invariably believed to be so?

Any person who refuses to believe this bread-poison only needs to make an experiment I have never found to fail of the same effects. Feed an animal on bread made with alum it will soon be diseased, it will decay, convulse, and expire. How then must little children

children suffer from a substance of mortal virulence, even to dogs and other strong animals ?

Magnesia alba is made by other chemists from sea-salt, but though that is very different in all its properties from alum, Mr. J——n says, “ That “ mineral acid may possibly be converted to magnesia alba in bread, when the water which it is “ kneaded with is elixated with wood-ashes.” But can Mr. Chemist make magnesia alba from alum ? why does he suppose it to be then so transmuted in bread ? can a lixivium of wood-ashes used by some few bakers only, p. 24. discompose all the alum used by the generality of the trade ? is that an argument for its use ? We need not go so far as to Geber the Arab to learn in a case of this sort, though it is a maxim in chemistry, that, *Quid non ingreditur non immutat* ; for indeed was it no secret, and were all the bakers to make bread with a lixivium of pot-ash, he says, The magnesia alba when genuine is so extremely uncertain a medicine that its effects may be very good or very bad, or none at all ; which should be some reason for our saying very little in favour of the continuance of its use in food, and for our being very careful how we abuse such as have discovered the mischief and importuned redress.

Though the greatest men of all ages have generally reputed such qualities unwholesome to animals ; yet Mr. J——n contrary to their opinions, says they are wholesome ; or that himself has more sense than the learned of the present and past ages ; and yet so very tenacious he is of that blessing, that he has not given us even one specimen of it through his whole production.. Is it more probable that a chemist should understand physic, than that a physician should be skilled in chemistry ? but Mr. J——n denies chemistry to all the faculty.

Mr.

Mr. J——n is mightily enraged at the author of POISON DETECTED, for branding a whole body of men with “such unparalleled infamy” is not every loaf we weigh, a mark of their honesty? does not their confessed use of alum shew much humanity? “it is to please the fancy of their customers, who “chuse white bread,” if the buyer is a fool, may the seller then poison him? but though he professes so much tenderness towards this body of men; nay, “the false impeacher should be compelled to subsist on bread, purposely poisoned;” has he proved any other, a false impeacher than that man who accuses the whole body of physicians, as the aggravators of diseases, p. 8. ? as ignorant of chymistry: p. 18. he has reason to know James * and might have been convinced of the falshood of his assertion from enquiring into the chemical virtú of Lucas, Shaw, &c. but indeed he has very egregiously proved the truth of his assertion, *humanum est errare*, vid. p. 26. thus he asperges the person honoured with his abuse for discovering the frauds of a trade notoriously branded, and ’tis presumed, he falsely impeaches a body of men who have in all ages been by the wiser and greater part of mankind respected for their integrity, revered for their learning, and beloved for their humanity. But it is not to be wondered at, that Mr. J——n should abuse a class as much reputed for their probity as ingenuity. I dare say, he has better reasons for invective, than he chuses to hint at, especially if in all his chymical processes he employs substances repugnant in nature as substitutes for each other, as, vid. p. 25. alum instead of nitre or sea salt, in making of magnesia alba; such customs among pretenders to chemistry and professors of quackery, have with much reason been long exclaimed against by all true physicians.

In the next edition of this essay, Mr. J——n will do well to answer the following queries, put in his

* Who formerly chastised him for his insolence. own

own manner (I mean without order or method) which 'tis presumed will be a much more difficult employment for him, and give more satisfaction to his readers; and will impute him with less infamy, than what seems to entertain him so much, his profusion of scurrility, ill manners and nonsense discharged at the person, whose sole design was as manifestly to preserve the health and lives of mankind from fatal abuses, but too well known; as his was to delude them into the paths of destruction.

1. Has Mr. J——n vindicated the millers and bakers according to his promise?

2. Why has he abstained from bread for ten years
p. 1.

Why did his friend the bird-fancier preserve his birds by changing his baker?

3. Is not the vegetable acid of bread a very necessary part in its composition? does not alum volatilize the vegetable, and supplant it with its own mineral acid invelliped in an oily covering? vid. Boerhaave, Grew, Helmont.

4. Do not the bakers use alum? this is confessed by their champion, and is it not allowed to be poisonous? vid. SYHOROC.

5. If then they do use alum, will they scruple to use ingredients, though perhaps not so hurtful to the eaters of bread much more profitable to the bakers, as they absorb more water, and retain it better than bread flour?

7. Since some bakers have professed much public spirit, why have they not offered rewards to such as would detect adulterations? on the contrary have not several people offered to prove the sophistication of bread when called upon by proper authority, but as they never have been called upon shall we attribute this to fear of knowing the truth or the danger of risking a prophet by its discovery?

9. Many bakers have made oath that they do not use *at present* any of the adulterations charged to the trade, nay some have sworn they never will use them, in this they have done well; why do not they make oath they never *did* use them or know them to be used before POISON DETECTED was published? this would be an easy exculpation.

10. Has not Dr. Stonehouse asserted, that they use in bread such impurities as shock us to believe, did not his evidences offer to prove their informations upon oath? why has not a reply been made to this? vid. CHRONICLE.

11. Is not the London bread dry, harsh, and crumbly, (friable in Mr. J——n pure language) in two days? is not honest bread moist at six or seven days old: whence comes the difference pray?

12. Was it asserted that the bakers *only* use these impurities, or that *any one* man uses them all at one time, or rather was it not said that all these are used at different times by the generality of them; and that the millers use most of the calcarious matters? have the rioters broke open *one* mill, where they have not discovered them grinding these substances?

13. Why should we wish some salutary statute might oblige the bakers entirely to abolish the use of alum? p. 14.

14. Will a vegetable the weaker destroy the mineral a strong poisonous acid? vid. Boer. Infra, p. 31.

15. If the children in the country are subject to acidity from vegetable bread, how much more so must they be who eat that food mingled with mineral acids?

16. Do not all people complain that milk is subject to curdle when boiled with bread? is this the case in the country?

17. Two drams of salt of steel used to one butt of beer, which it seems is the common portion allowed by the brewery, Mr. J——n says, may do great mischief, so do I. But is not alum as strong a corrosive acid as vitriol? vid. Boerhaave. If so, how much harm may be derived from its constant consumption at the rate of two ounces *per* three gallons of water in bread? all eat bread, but all do not drink beer, though Mr. J——n may. Nay, infants eat bread; should then the decay of the people, which is manifest mostly on the part of infants, be attributed to the adulterations of wine, cyder, beer, pickles, &c. which they seldom taste, or the impurities in the bread they eat daily?

18. Two thirds more than usual of the children born in some parishes, vid. SYHOROC, have died since the dearness of corn has increased the adulterations of bread. To what cause must this effect be ascribed?

19. Whence comes the general complaint in families, that frequently the flour they buy cannot by any arts they can use be kneaden to a viscid paste, like that easily made from good flour of wheat only? are the people all malicious liars, or are there not villainous arts practised by some of the dealers in flour?

20. Is not the London bread white? is white the natural colour of bread? is black the colour of swans? ought not bread to be of a grey or russet hue, resembling the colour of fine hay?

21. The bread I procured to be made, in which was a portion of bone-ash, chalk, alum and sal. tart. proved extremely white and porous; and though it contained absorbents enough to increase a pound weight to twenty ounces, after baking; yet it so exactly resembled the town bread that it deceived several people. The difference could not be distinguished.

I of.

I offered it to a cat; she refused it; I offered her good bread, she eat it up. And this is a way to demonstrate when bread is adulterated with alum, &c.

22. Instead of exculpating his friends the bakers, Mr. J——n actually takes refuge with them, and attributes the present decay of the people to the pernicious ingredients employed in other victualery trades. Is not this effect attributed by the author of POISON DETECTED also to the same causes in general, but to these abuses in bread more particularly? and is it not more reasonable to ascribe them to adulterations confessed in that common food, than to the less general provisions of a people? ought not they all equally to be prevented? and where can we more properly begin, than with those of bread? Mr. J——n says, he eats no bread, but I suppose he drinks beer; especially purl made with his own patent bitters.

23. All sensible brutes except when very hungry indeed refuse the common bread and eat that which is honestly made, a merit of lap-dogs. Nay, even Mr. J——n an animal of no very marvellous sagacity or shrewdness eats not the London bread. A pampered cat or dog will refuse adulterated bread, but if it is good will eat it favourily: this though no very *elegant* may be a surprising experiment, and is a very true, I will not say a general one.

24. The piles were never so frequent; the cholic is extremely prevalent and violent; dimness of sight was never so common: alum and alkalies cause these calamities. A fowl fed on adulterated bread pines away, grows blind, and dies.

If the distillers convert bread to poison, by the bakers poison is made into bread, and that food is no longer the staff of life.



25. Which of the bakers will say, that he is aimed at by any thing advanced in the first pamphlet * dignified with Mr. J——n's aspersions? the adulterators, and none else are pointed at. Do not they deserve more satyr than it could possibly contain? who then says he is abused by it, and does not call himself homicide?

What does he merit who publicly attempts the vindication of criminals, so glaringly stained? does he merit an hundred pounds for the prostitution of all honour and decency on the altar of impudence, malice, or lust of lucre? does he merit a pecuniary or penal recompence?

Fierce champion, impudence! that knows no fears
Of hisses, shame, or want or loss of ears.

Who in nice balance, truth, with lucre weighs,
And solid pudding against empty praise. *Pope.*

What does he deserve who protects criminals from justice, and would blindfold the eyes of mankind, whilst they are bereaved and defrauded of the blessing, than which none but the *mens conscia recti* super-values? is not he equally criminal, who with opiates shall stupify the house marked for their plunder, as the villains who may thereby expect more easily to execute undiscovered their impious purpose?

26. What can we expect from the man who is burned in the hand with a bribe, from the party he attempts to vindicate? What! dare you H. J——n! miscall falsehoods then? have you proved one? is your crazy denial of facts sufficient?

Since therefore Mr. J——n allows that allum is generally used, and though he promised to prove the impossibility of using calcarious earths; he has evidently failed, as every ones senses and the making of a loaf will more easily convince him, than the perusal of his elaborate essay.

Why

Why did the Daily Advertiser refuse to advertise this reply, or any paper in which the abuses of bakers are exposed——no bribery!

It only remains that we add a few remarks upon the qualities of these ingredients in bread, which I shall extract from the greatest authors, to establish the reasoning advanced in these papers. and to shew the fallacy, impropriety, and insufficiency of Mr. J—'s halting experiments.

Extracts from Authors.

ALUM and vitriol nearly resemble each other. The native green vitriol calcined with a gentle heat to a white powder and distilled with degrees of fire up to the highest, affords a white fume which condenses to an acid liquor, which when perfectly rectified is the same with that obtained from alum. BOYLE.

Alum by the fire relinquishes its watry parts and becomes so strong a corrosive acid as to be fit to eat away proud flesh; but is said to have the inconvenience of leaving an hardness upon the part. Acids of this sort which before the operation will scarce touch metals, turned to acid spirit by the fire will easily penetrate and conquer them. So that instead of being wholesome after baking, possibly the alum may become much more pernicious. Vid. SYHOROC. Vid. FRIEND, p. 87. 2d edit.

Alum nauseates the stomach, proves on first taking purgative and leaves afterwards violent constipations of the bowels. HOFFMAN.

The three acids peculiar to the mineral kingdom, are all highly corrosive; insomuch as not to be safely meddled with, unless diluted or mixed with such substances as abate their corrosiveness. BOERHAAVE.

Mineral acids instantly coagulate blood. Acids of every kind are prejudicial in cold languid habits; where

where the vessels are lax and circulation weak, bile deficient and the power of digestion feeble; as is the case with children in general. Nay, 'an acid is oft generated in the stomach from milk and most vegetable foods, which whilst it continues in the first passages occasions uneasiness at the stomach, flatulences, griping pains of the bowels, vomiting, or the cholera morbus. Many celebrated physicians (and who understood chemistry too, vid. H. J—np. 18.) have been of opinion that most kinds of diseases were derived from preternatural acidity. That children do acquire their illnesses this way principally needs not be insisted on; as their sour pukings and acid alvine fæces betray, sometimes so manifestly as to raise strong effervescence with alkaline salts. MEAD.

The acid of alum mixed with sea-salt distilled yields a spirit of salt, from which with nitre is made aqua fortis. BOER. GEBER. PARACELSUS.

If there are really no acid juices in the ventricle, such substances as chalk, bone-ash, slak'd lime and whiting, are apt to concrete with the mucous matter usually lodged there, into hard indissoluble masses, which have sometimes been thrown up by vomit. (Vid. Zwelf. animadv. in Ph. Aug. p. 66. miscel. N. C. dec. 2. ann. 6. obs. 24. act. N. C. See 2d obs. 139.) or found in the stomach upon dissection. Vid. Hoffm. de benign. remed. abus. Hence loss of appetite, nauciæ, vomiting, obstructions of the bowels, and other disorders. Sometimes the stomach and intestines of those who have used them for the heartburn have been found lined with a crust as it were of these chalky bodies (Vid. Albert. diff. de atroph. sect. 10) which must not only have prevented the separation of the gastric liquor, but likewise closed the orifices of the lacteal vessels, so as to prevent the entrance of the chyle into the mass of blood,

blood, and of course all nourishment. Thus much for chalky and aluminous substances in the daily food of mankind.

As for the changes arising in the menstrua made by an artificial mixture of fossil acids and salt, we know that a strong fixed acid copiously adheres to calcined alum and vitriol, the peculiar effects of which acid when actuated by fire is to expel all other acids from the bodies they had dissolved, provided such bodies are dissolvable by the acids of alum or vitriol.

So far as we have been able to discover, oil of sulphur *per campanam*, oil of vitriol, and oil of alum are one and the same acid, which has this property, that it will expell all other known acids from the body that retains them, will render them intirely volatile; occupy their place, and after the former acid spirits are separated, the residuum forms a body of its own nature, that is to say, of the genius of this strong acid. BOERHAAVE.

Copper dissolved in a solution of alum produces a vitriolic water, which mixing with fixed alkali; for thus the metallic or terrestrial part held dissolved in them being now separated, the acid solvent will unite with the alkali into a kind of tartarum vitriolatum, very different from other salts, as appears from its effects upon metals, semi-metals, but when volatile alkaline salts are mixed with vitriol or alum, a sort of semi-volatile tartar of vitriol is produced. Vid. Boerhaave theor. chem. sect. ix.

Will his backers permit Mr. J——n to allow verdigrease is poison? does not alum dissolved in water in a vessel of copper, digesting in a slow fire, melt off much of the metallic erugo? a small portion of which, if not fatal is extremely detrimental inwardly

ly taken * ? I can produce evidence when called upon by proper authority, to prove the practice of bakers ; which is, to set the alum in some solvent a considerable time in the oven to dissolve, the vessel he observed was incrustated with the cristalline poison of the dissolved copper, which must mix with the alum water, and among the bread in very pernicious quantities : so poisons are multiplied and dangers increased !—Nine people were poisoned in Paris at one time only by victuals prepared in a copper vessel which was not thoroughly clean. Vid. Lanzoni, Valnisneri, and Mauchert on the pernicious quality of the rust of copper.

Upon the whole therefore what Mr. J——n's private reasons for opposing the good of the public, as asserted in POISON DETECTED could be, are best known to himself and his retainers : but his dealing in several nostrums of quackery and the practices of adulteration much promoting his trade, makes it not improbable that he might have reasons which, notwithstanding his frank disavowance of humanity he did not think the most honourable to be explained. Besides, as by the encouragement of hand-mills in workhouses and hospitals, where not only bodily but intellectual invalids might be made industrious and useful : he might think himself too nearly concerned to remain silent. If this was his motive I pity the man and sincerely recommend him to the compassion of all those who may read his production, and hope they will neither be surpris'd or displeas'd at it. Pray permit the weakness of the thing's head to excuse the badness of his heart ; and thank Providence for his goodness, who has generally given to the most malevolent creatures, the least ability to do mischief : *they have the spirit without the power thereof.* A

* Was a quart of such a solution, mixed with one bushel of flour, the bread would be deadly.

A TALE by way of Conclusion for the Benefit of H. J——n Seller of Alum and Salt of Tarter for Bread, and Oleum Anodynum, according to the Recipe obtained from his Brother Physician and Co-patentee the renowned Doctor C——t, Patten-Maker from Lauford's-Gate, Bristol.

A Pack of very ignorant fellows, but much inclined to Roguery, once set a town on fire while the inhabitants, who were mighty subject to be extremely drowsy, were almost all asleep. Fire! was called out by one who was awake amid the general slumbering, and soon many were alarmed and exerted their endeavours to extinguish the flames. The wretches who inadvertently caused the commotion, willing to exculpate themselves, sought amongst the most prostituted profligates, but could find none to extenuate the guilt; though money was offered. It was indeed a mark of their simplicity, to desire to be justified in a matter which was rather ascribed to ignorance than premeditated design: however they at last found a man whose head and heart were bad enough to attempt the business.

The fellow called himself a chemist, but was more celebrated as a quack: up he stood, amidst the general confusion, and called out; “Ye citizens! are
“ye mad? your houses are not on fire, I maintain
“it! what you see here is only a phosphor, a mere
“ignis fatuus; the men who kindled it are my
“friends, very good sort of folks, I assure you, and
“myself have sold them the very alum from which
“this phosphorus was made, it will only purify and
“not burn your city; and that is the whole of their
“intention in doing this, and mine in selling my
“stuff* ; besides, if any accident happens, I
* Vid. H. J——’s essay, p. 11. prepare

“prepare you a curious liquid of mighty virtue
 “for burns: it is a cheap remedy, a marvellous se-
 “cret! here it is, (he then shewed a bottle) do not
 “be in any fear.”

While the crazy empiric was thus impudently displaying the houses were crashing and bursting in flames; people screaming and dying, burned to death, which made many to pity the object as one just broke loose; but others, who were not so much inclined to favour, him treated him with a more scurvy kind of familiarity. Nay, 'twas absolutely asserted that the wretch, though no great wit, was not totally bereaved of such common sense as is seen in the brute creation: tho' he was known not to possess so much innocence; which was the reason of his gaining an interview with one of the magistrates of the city, who said, “The men who burned the town
 “*might be ignorant*, but this man, who vindicates the
 “deed, and would abuse the people, must be *guilty*,”
 and ordered him to mount a certain kind of rostrum, through which he was to shew only his head and hands, exactly in the fashion of our pillory; and as it was thought no better a present could be made to justice, he was sentenced to decorate the post with his ears; at which the rascal in an impudent fit of laughter said, “Seven years ago my ears were nailed
 “to this very post, as my brother physician and co-
 “patentee the patten-maker of B—I can evidence.

He was therefore only whipped through the town he attempted to abuse, pitied by many, blamed by more, and laugh'd at by most; some thought him a fool, some a knave, and some both; like a dog with his tail in a twitchel, who may be mistaken for mad or thought peevish from his frantic gestures, till the cleft-stick on his tail is observed.

T H E E N D.



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